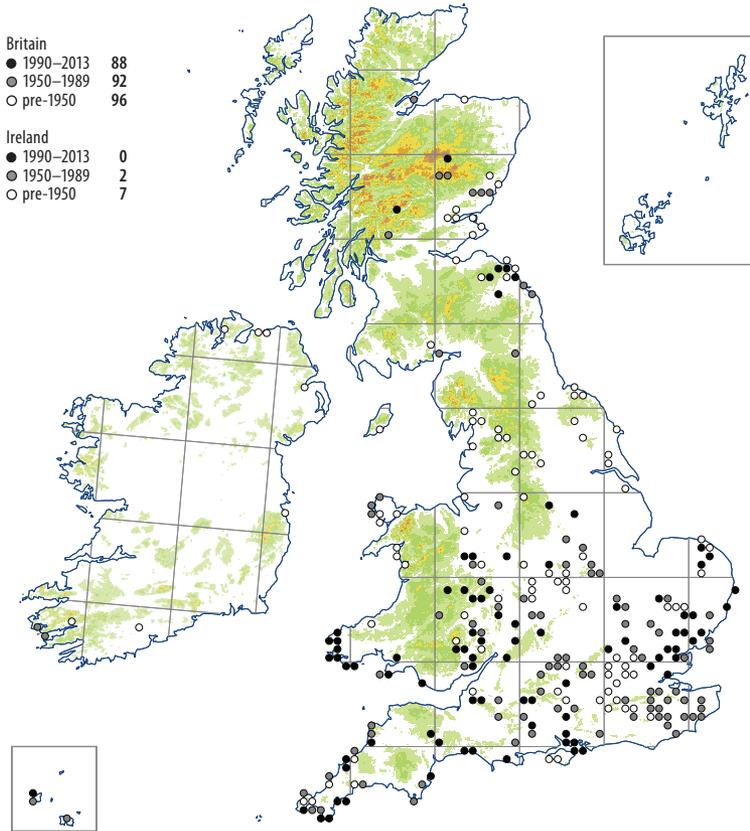


Acaulon muticum



An ephemeral of bare ground on neutral and base-deficient substrates, characteristic of sandy and other loose-textured, well-drained soils, but sometimes occurring on clay. It is often found in coastal habitats, growing on bare soil at the edge of rocks and in grassland (often on old ant-hills or mole-hills), and on banks and paths above sea cliffs. Associates in such places in Cornwall include *Riccia sorocarpa*, *Bryum argenteum*, *B. dichotomum*, *B. subapiculatum*, *Ceratodon purpureus* and *Tortula truncata* (Holyoak, 2012). Inland, it occurs sporadically on bare soil on tracksides and woodland rides, on earth-covered walls, in old pits, and in thin turf on banks. Mainly a lowland species, it extends occasionally to the uplands on bare soil on and below cliffs. It is rare in stubble fields, and was not found in significant quantity during the BBS survey of arable land (Preston *et al.*, 2010). Although it has been recorded

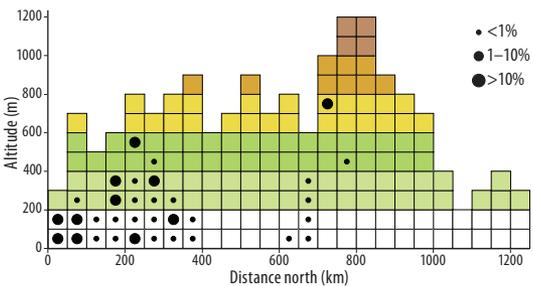
with *Phascum cuspidatum* in arable fields, it is usually found on less base-rich soil than that species. Altitudinal range: 0–595 m.

It is often found in small quantity. Many populations are transitory, and *Acaulon muticum* has a low frequency of refinds in a given hectad. This is reflected in the large number of older records on the map. There has probably been a long-term decline on cultivated ground because of intensive land use, but the records do not show any statistical decline since 1970; indeed they increased during the 1990s, though the reasons for this are unclear.

Rhizautoicous; capsules are abundant, maturing from autumn through to early spring, rarely in summer.

Records of *A. muticum* s.l. have been included on the map provided that there is no record of *A. mediterraneum* in the same hectad. This will have little impact on the overall accuracy of the map.

European Southern-temperate. In Europe north to C Norway and southern Finland, east to Russia. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey, Iran to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. (Many records from the wider Mediterranean region may belong to *A. mediterraneum*). N America (New York and Massachusetts south to Texas). Records from Australia belong to related species.



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